The Pastimes of Nimai Pandit

Act Two - Nimai Pandit As A Youth

Sri Caitanya and His Teacher

Scene One - In the House of Jagannath Misra

(Saci Devi, the mother of Nimai Pandit meets with Srivasa Thakur)

Saci: Listen, O crest-jewel of the Vaisnavas, there is no one more wretched than I am - since birth, I have been only shedding tears. My first son, Visvarupa, left me so long ago From that time, I have felt a sharp thorn sticking into me. After my husband, Jagannath Misra's demise, flames of separation constantly devour me. I brought a beautiful and accomplished girl, Laxmi, to brighten the house as my daughter-in- law but the cruel hand of death snatched her away. I have not been able to overcome the grief I feel at her passing.

Again, after much consultation, I brought another bride for my son into our home. Her beauty is comparable only to Laksmidevi, the Goddess of Fortune and she possesses virtues equal only to the Sarasvate, the Goddess of Learning. I dare not think what misfortune might come, uninvited, next.

This troubles me, Thakur - my Nimai visited the pilgrimage site of Gaya recently and ever since His return, this transformation I notice on Him is incomprehensible to me. He remains silent at all times, not speaking. Sometimes he laughs and sometimes Nimai cries, just like a madman. In the night, He suddenly screams, "Where is Krsna, where is my Lord!" Torrents of tears stream down, sometimes He swoons, even, and rolls upon the ground. Everyone says that my son may be suffering from mental troubles. Anyhow, someone should cure Him. My mind refuses to function for thinking about Him. Is it a witch or a ghost that has possessed Nimai? I find no solution.

Srivasa: O reverend Mother, Saci Devi, your son's aberration is even desired by the most powerful demigods like Lord Brahma and Lord Siva. One who utters the Holy Names of the Lord constantly, like N, are protected from all dangers. What disease can attack Him? Why do you foolishly anticipate danger, then? Your son possesses extraordinary virtues. His entire being is imbued in thoughts of Krsna; you are truly a most fortunate lady to have borne such a son in your womb! Day and night, He swims in the nectar of devotion; for this reason, He laughs or cries, Mother! Drive away the depressing doubts from your mind and you shall receive the rarest gem of love of Krsna, by the mercy of your son.

Saci: Since Visvarupa left us, my heart tremors very often. I do not want to be hurt again if Nimai also leaves to become a renunciate. So, I arranged with

much haste, His second marriage - but alas, my breast shudders at His demeanor with His new wife. He seemed happy in he association before He went to Gaya, but now, if He is with His wife, He remains silent often, yet at other times, he breaks into loud chastisement. His wife, a mere child, flees in fear. I have landed myself in such trouble, bringing another's daughter into this predicament. Poor Darling, Visnupriya cries all the time. I do not know what is in store for her in the future. Srivasa Thakur, please kindly convince my Nimai to give more attention to His family affairs. Kindly do this on thing, O gentle Vaisnava - Nimai is the light of my life in an otherwise gloomy world!

Srivasa: O revered Mother, how can I make you understand? Your son is not an ordinary personality. He has specifically appeared to propagate the congregational chanting of the Holy Names of Krsna.
Your daughter-in-law is fortunate, otherwise who can get such a Personality as Nimai Pandit for her husband. His grace is capable of eradicating all nescience. You should know that your son is the liberator of the entire Universe.

Saci: Alas, Just see how torrential tears drown me in fits near madness! How can I rid myself of such feelings? Tell me, please tell me!

Srivasa: When the heart becomes surcharged with feelings for Lord Krsna, with each rememberance new moods develop and with each mood comes new attractions to the Holy Names of Krsna.
(Nimai enters)

Nimai: How blessed you are, Mother! Today a Vaisnava has set foot in your house! (to Srivasa) O Vaisnava master, where, oh where do I possess even the slightest love for Krsna? My fallen life has gone to waste. Tell me, O Master, where is Krsna? Where can I find Him? Please give me the dust of your lotus feet so that I may find the Lord of Vrndavan, Krsna. You, sir, are a pure devotee of the Lord: I submit to you that by your blessing I may receive love of Krsna. I harbor no other desire beyond that of becoming the menial servant of a Vaisnava. Then, certainly, I will attain Krsna who roams Gokula Vrndavan. Alas! Where did Sri Krsna go? Hari! Hari! Where are You now, my most merciful one! (faints in ecstasy)

Saci: Goodness Gracious, what has happened now!

Srivasa: Do not fear - just utter loudly the Holy Names of Lord Hari!

Both: Govinda! Hare Krsna! Krsna! Haribol!!

Nimai: Oh, how nectarean these Names are! There is nothing beyond the Holy Names! The glories of the Holy Names is such that Lord Brahma and Lord Siva are not adequately adept to describe them! The Lord's Holy Names

are unparalleled - sing Lord Krsna's sweet Names and surely this material world will be transformed into the highest spiritual realm of Goloka! Blessed, blessed, blessed is this human birth! The Supreme Lord's mercy has given humanity the strength to chant the Holy Names. Blessed is the tongue that it can vibrate the holy name of the Lord. Blessed is Mother Earth, where devotional love for the Supreme Lord is being so widely spread! Haribol! Haribol!
(Gangaprasad Pandit enters)

Gangaprasada: So! It is good that you are here Thakurji, and you also Mother Saci Devi. I have much to say. (to Nimai) My dear Nimai, did I after all teach You only for this end? How can You think to leave Your new wife and Your grieving Mother at this time? (to Srivasa) Respected Srivasa, we are all Brahmanas here. We certainly both worship the same the same Lord Vishnu, but I see that together all of you young Vaisnavas are bent upon completely breaking up this family! And yes, the departed Sri Jagannatha Misra has entrusted Nimai to my care, to which I gave him my solemn oath.

Srivasa: Respected teacher, what is my offense? The Supreme Lord Sri Krsna has showered His grace upon Nimai, what can I do?

Gangaprasada: Oh yes, certainly! Kindly present such explanations to a simpleton. A highly sensitive emotion in a volatile person will naturally sway to any direction as prompted. (to Nimai) And You, Nimai - You possess sufficient spiritual understanding; You should debate with Me upon what is the actual duty. What other religious duty is higher than household life? If you have some other opinion, You should convince me. You are a householder, Nimai, but instead of acting like one, You are acting quite to the contrary. Instead of defending it, You are preparing to abandon it!

Nimai: Master, I do not know why I do not know what to do, but my entire being is as if hypnotized. I ruminate at times as to whether I should remain in household life but I cannot stay. My heart runs away. I try to reason with it, but to no avail; it constantly wants to jump into the boundless ocean . My heart and soul is engrossed, what shall I debate.

For Me, Krsna is everything. I do not want anything besides Krsna in this life. Where is Krsna? Please tell Me - where, oh where is Krsna? I am burning up in the flames of separation from Him. I cannot bear it any more.
Alas, where are You, Krsna? Are You hiding from Me, My dear heart, My soul, My Hari? Life is waning from My body - come, show Yourself to Me!

Gangaprasada: Respected Thakur, if you kindly permit me, I would like to speak to my Pupil alone.

Srivasa: As you command. (to Nimai) I shall see You again in the evening, now speak to your teacher.

Nimai: My Master, I have a special request - kindly give Me shelter at your lotus feet! I hope that one day I shall see you again!
(Srivasa Thakur leaves.)

Gangaprasada: Very well! The One Who attracts You so much - worship Him. At the same time, You also need to subsist, One does not acquire the position of a grammar teacher with feeble fortunes. You are blessed by Mother Sarasvati, the Goddess of Learning and yet why do You spurn it?

Nimai: Master, I try to teach with the best of My capacity. I explain the scriptural purports to my students, but that does not satisfy them, so I told them to study elsewhere.

Gangaprasada: How can You say that You try Your upmost? "Logic, grammar, literary ornaments" in every instance Your reply is Your Krsna. When asked about the "root" of any word, Your answer is "Krsna!" How do You expect the students to be satisfied?

Nimai: Master, I have simply understood this to be the essence of all scriptures. The language belongs to Krsna. Logic and ornamental tools are meant to glorify Krsna and certainly Who else is the "root?" It is Krsna's mercy that living entities exist; without Krsna, it is all naught.

Gangaprasada: Oh no, no, that is simply Your mad ravings! That's delirium! Speak cohesively. Ever since Your return from Gaya Dhama, Your mind has been unsettled. I want to know who instructed you in this school of thought. Let us look now at the fact, Nimai. Your mother, Your wife, who do they have to look after them? They simply look to You for their sustenance; are they not your responsibility?

Nimai: Master, Who am I to take any responsibility? The fountainhead of the entire cosmos is omnipresent. Krsna is the Cause of all beings an He looks after every living entity in this vast Universe, down to the most minute.
Who am I and what can I do? Whatever is done is all sanctioned by the Supreme Lord, Krsna Murari. Everyone is controlled by Krsna's energies. The Lord is kind and He is equally compassionate to everyone. I am like an infinitesimal drop in the ocean of material existence. Tell me, Master, what can I do?

Gangaprasada: Truly, it is Krsna's household and it is His responsibility to take care of it, yet without a medium, no works can be implemented. Like the planets orbit the sun, so also the relatives center around the household. In such a position of responsibility, who can remain without activity. Prescribed, authorized knowledge is not possible to be acquired without activity. Action is the cause of liberation, that is the essential teaching of the scriptures. I

cannot ascertain where You have learned to be so contrary that You disregard this point.

Nimai: Please forgive Me, Master! The only medium or cause I saw was in Gaya Dhama. After I circumambulated the lotus feet of Sri Vishnu, I could understand how insignificant I was and how unimportant all work remains. I understood that Krsna is everything.

The Supreme Lord is all-pervasive. There is direct perception of this fact, not mere speculation. Out of His limitless mercy He has come to destroy the sufferings of humanity. The Supreme Lord has manifested His lotus feet in Gaya Dhama yet, how unfortunate I am, I have not been able to develop any attachment for those lotus feet!

I beheld in Gaya Dhama so many millions of spirit souls without a body roaming about just to drink the sweet ambrosia from the lotus feet of Sri Visnu.

So many Lord Brahmas and Lord Sivas were engrossed in thoughts of Lord Hari, singing His glories - but, wretched Me, I could not recognize the beloved Lord, Sri Hari. Chant the name of Hari! Let the days pass, dance in ecstasy and become maddened with love of Krsna. Trample insidious thoughts of liberation and drown fruitive activities in the shoreless waters of time. Simply glorify the Lord. There is nothing else in this world - Krsna is our mother, Krsna our father, Krsna our body, mind and soul. Take the Name of Krsna - say Hari! Sing that Holy Name which is unfettered of all anxiety.

Gangaprasada: (enlivened) Haribol!! Haribol!! Come, saturate me! Where did You find this sweet, divine love of Hari?

Together: Haribol!!Hare Krsna Hare Krsna Krsna Krsna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Rama Hare Hare

Gangaprasada: O Saci Devi, I bow to Your good fortune. Your son is none other than Krsna Murari. Chant the Name of Hari the whole day long, (to Nimai) O Nimai, You have really understood the essence of the scriptures. Now, I am not going to leave Your association again. No longer shall I praise the futile activities of the householder.

Nimai: Come, Master, be merciful and take your noon prasadam in My house! Dear Mother, allow Me to serve My teacher. Let us make all arrangements.
(All Leave.)